

101-912

**Via Certified Mail,
Regular Mail & Email**

June 1, 2023

Mr. Millard House, II, Superintendent
Ms. Dani Hernandez, Board President
Ms. Myrna Guidry, Board First Vice President
Ms. Bridget Wade, Board Second Vice President
Mr. Kendall Baker, Board Secretary
Ms. Kathy Blueford-Daniels, Board Assistant Secretary
Ms. Elizabeth Santos, Board Member
Dr. Patricia K. Allen, Board Member
Ms. Sue Deigaard, Board Member
Ms. Judith Cruz, Board Member
Houston Independent School District
4400 W. 18th St.
Houston, TX 77092

RE: Appointment of Board of Managers and Superintendent

Dear Mr. House and Trustees:

In correspondence dated March 15, 2023 (the “correspondence”), I notified the Houston Independent School District (“Houston ISD” or “district”) of my decision to appoint a Board of Managers and a new superintendent to the district based on two legal grounds: (1) the unacceptable performance of a district campus for five consecutive school years; and (2) the appointment of a conservator to the district for at least two consecutive school years.¹ The correspondence also provided that the district may appeal the Board of Managers appointment to the State Office of Administrative Hearings (“SOAH”) and further advised that my decision would be final and unappealable if no review was requested by March 30, 2023. The district did not appeal my decision prior to the deadline. Therefore, my decision to appoint a Board of Managers is final, and no further review is available to the district.²

Since the issuance of the correspondence, the Texas Education Agency (“TEA”) has conducted a rigorous application and interview process to identify and select qualified members of the Board of Managers. To qualify, the applicants had to be Houstonians who live within the district’s boundaries, who are committed to selfless service on behalf of the students, and who believe that all children can achieve at high levels when provided with proper supports.

A wide array of community members applied and were evaluated, and I am appreciative of everyone who displayed their commitment to the students of Houston ISD by submitting an

¹ Texas Education Code (TEC) §§39A.006, 39A.111, and 19 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §97.057(d)

² TEC §39A.301 and 19 TAC §157.1155(a) and (b)

application to serve on the Board of Managers. While I encourage everyone who applied to remain actively engaged in supporting the district and its new leadership, I hereby notify the district of my appointment of nine members of the Houston ISD Board of Managers. The Board of Managers will be comprised of the following individuals:

- **Audrey Momanaee (recommended to serve as Board President):** Ms. Momanaee is a Houston ISD parent and native Houstonian who grew up in a family of public school teachers and developed a strong sense of public service. Ms. Momanaee is an experienced litigation attorney and advocate for pro bono legal work, handling numerous cases to help families across Houston.
- **Ric Campo (recommended to serve as Board Vice President):** For more than 40 years, Mr. Campo has leveraged his energy, experience, and advocacy to build a better Houston. He has served on numerous public and private boards, in service to families, children, reducing homelessness, and promoting the city of Houston. Mr. Campo is the grandson of immigrant farmworkers and was the first in his family to graduate from college before successfully building his own company in Houston.
- **Angela Lemond Flowers (recommended to serve as Board Secretary):** An experienced educator, Ms. Lemond Flowers began her teaching career at Jesse H. Jones High School in Houston ISD, where her mother also taught. Ms. Lemond Flowers has devoted her career to the advancement of children's education. She has served as a high school English teacher and in administrative leadership for over twenty years in Houston-area schools. She is the proud mother of four, including two Houston ISD graduates.
- **Michelle Cruz Arnold, Ph.D.:** The mother of a Houston ISD student, Dr. Cruz Arnold earned a Ph.D. in Education Policy and Planning and has spent more than twenty years as an education policy advocate working to create college and career opportunities for students. Dr. Cruz Arnold is a proud Houstonian who currently leads government relations and advocacy work for a national non-profit college access organization.
- **Cassandra Auzenne Bandy:** Ms. Bandy is a proud Houstonian, Houston ISD graduate, and parent of fourth-generation Houston ISD students. She is an active PTO volunteer at her children's school. She is a chemical engineer by training and currently works as a business strategy manager at a global consulting firm.
- **Janette Garza Lindner:** Ms. Garza Lindner is a devoted wife and working mom of two children who attend Houston ISD schools. She is a management consultant within the energy industry, and her civic advocacy spans education, the arts, and making our neighborhoods safer and healthier. A life-long Texan, Ms. Garza Lindner was born and raised in Brownsville and has lived in Houston for more than 20 years.
- **Rolando Martinez:** Mr. Martinez is a native Houstonian, a Houston ISD graduate, and a parent of three children who all attend Houston ISD schools. He currently serves on the Houston ISD District Advisory Committee, and he works as a human resources manager at a large healthcare system in the Texas Medical Center.
- **Paula Mendoza:** Ms. Mendoza is a longtime Houston resident, the mother of a Houston ISD graduate, and a committed community leader and entrepreneur. She is a small business owner and has demonstrated her commitment to the Houston community through service on numerous non-profit and governmental boards, including the University of

Houston Board of Regents, Texas Ethics Commission, and Texas State Board of Public Accountancy.

- **Adam P. Rivon:** Mr. Rivon is the parent of a Houston ISD student and is the founder and owner of a small business in the real estate industry. Mr. Rivon proudly served his country in the United States Army, earning a Bronze Star for leadership as an Army Artillery Officer during combat operations in Iraq.

These members of the Board of Managers will be responsible for governing Houston ISD, and they will provide the leadership needed to work towards positive change for the district. Accordingly, with this appointment of a Board of Managers, the powers of the district's Board of Trustees are HEREBY SUSPENDED until further notice and for the duration of the tenure of the Board of Managers.³

State law also requires that I appoint a superintendent.⁴ Under that authority, I hereby appoint F. Mike Miles as the Superintendent of Schools of the Houston Independent School District, effective immediately and with the full authority, rights, and responsibilities as permitted under the Texas Education Code.

Mr. Miles is a remarkable educational leader with an established track record of success improving outcomes for Texas students, including in the second largest school district in the state. In his prior educational leadership roles as the superintendent of the Dallas Independent School District and the Harrison School District in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and as the founder and CEO of Third Future Schools, he implemented key systemic changes that resulted in significant growth in student outcomes in each school system.

Mr. Miles is the right leader to serve as the superintendent of Houston ISD during this intervention, and I am confident that he will be able to drive the system-wide changes necessary to increase student achievement, satisfy the exit criteria to return the district to elected board leadership, and create the conditions necessary for long-lasting student success.

I want to again thank the district's former superintendent, Mr. Millard House II, for his leadership. Mr. House served the students, teachers, and families of Houston ISD with integrity and a focus on improving student outcomes. Given Mr. House's institutional knowledge and unique understanding of the district's systems and processes, I encourage Superintendent Miles to continue to engage with Mr. House, to the extent Mr. House is willing, to provide for a smooth leadership transition.

I wish Superintendent Miles and the new school board all my best. It is my sincere hope that the district and the community work together in a cooperative and productive manner to address the current and future needs of the district's students.

Sincerely,



Mike Morath
Commissioner of Education
MM/lm

³ TEC§39A.202(a)(1)

⁴ TEC §39A.202(a)(2)